WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 3 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | JULY 2000

"The utterance of democracy is a way of saying no to inequality, injustice and coercion." Giovanni Sartori

Olympia Settles Wrongful Arrest Suit

Mike Pelly

I just settled with the city of Olympia over a wrongful arrest malicious mischief charge that happened to me on June 4, 1999. The city is giving my lawyer and I $2,500 and getting off easy. I testified to the Olympia City Council in July 99 about what happened to me. I wanted them to understand how it felt when my right to legally protest NATO's illegal bombing of Kosovo in the former Yugoslavia got snuffed out by the Olympia Police department.

It appears to me that Olympia's police force is in dire need of remedial education of the United State's and Washington's Constitutions and our civil rights.

Dear Mayor and members of the City Council,

My name is Mike Pelly. I come here to bring to your attention a very serious incident that occurred to me by members of the Olympia police force. This disturbing incident is one that demands your attention because it was quite an erosion of all of our first amendment rights and could very easily have happened to any of you, members of your family, or any one who has campaigned for political office at any public place here in Olympia.

On June 4th ,1999, at 7am, I did a one person political protest of NATO's bombing of Yugoslavia, a bombing that was considered illegal even in NATO's own charter along with the United Nations charter. June 4th incidentally was also the day right before the peace accords were signed. I'd like to think that my protest helped a little.

My political protest took place at the south/west corner of Plum and Union streets. This is the corner with the 'Welcome to Olympia' sign surrounded by the planted beauty bark bed with the grassy spot behind.

This exact same spot has always been freely used numerous times by many people for many years for the purpose of political free speech.

You and/or people who have been working on your political campaigns have used this same area to conduct political free speech, yet neither you nor them have ever been arrested or cited for doing so. Nor I am sure you have ever seen any other persons arrested for conducting political free speech activities on this spot.

I come here to tell you the humiliation I went through in being arrested for conducting political free speech in protesting NATO's bombing on the morning of June 4th.

I arrived at that corner and carefully pushed 10 picket signs into the beauty bark so they would be readable to passing motorists. In doing this I took great care to not step on or otherwise damage any of the plants growing at that spot. I have a letter written by the Parks Maintenance Supervisor for the city of Olympia, he wrote this letter after having examined photos of the area and said that the photos "did not show any physical damage to any plants visible in the pictures".

After having placed the picket signs in the beauty bark I then walked around to the grassy area behind the 'Welcome to Olympia' sign and laid down as if I was dead to graphically show what the result of a bombing attack might look like. I was there for less than 15 minutes when four police cars and four officers came up to force me to leave. I reminded the two officers who spoke with me that I had a first amendment right to be doing exactly what I was doing just like you do. The officers disagreed and handcuffed me and threw me in jail for a full booking.

Members of the council, I want you to know that I was shocked and embarrassed by being arrested and with the number of officers and police cars there it would appear that I had just robbed a bank or murdered someone. Being that this occurred at a high traffic area I am concerned of who might have seen me arrested and put into a squad car by four police officers, and who will from now on might have an opinion that I am some sort of violent felon.

It appears to me that Olympia's police force is in dire need of remedial education of the United State's and Washington's Constitutions and our civil rights. You, the city council, have the job of seeing that this happens.

In addition when I appeared in court on June 16th, the city's prosecutor made a motion to drop the charges without prejudice, (meaning that at any time the prosecutor can bring charges up against me again).

I asked the judge to drop charges with prejudice because it was a wrongful arrest to begin with. It was difficult getting the court to consider my question, let alone getting any answer from the prosecutor as to when this change would be made, if at all.

This entire experience has been extremely degrading and annoying to me. The more time that goes by without my name being fully cleared, the more annoying it becomes to me.

In clearing up my good name, I request that I receive an apology from the Olympia Police Department printed in The Olympian at police expense with an accurate description of the events of June 4th, and not such fictionalized opinions of Olympia Police officers as is described in the officers report.

I also request that strides be made by this Olympia city Council and the Olympia Police Department to bring an end of this gross erosion of your and my civil and constitutional right to exercise free political speech.

Please respond to this request in writing, Thank you.

Thinking back the most tragic part of this is, had I been 20 years younger and just getting my feet wet with activism I would of understandably freaked out and gone the route with the least restric-

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Food Not Bombs

Anarchist Youth Feed Trash To Single Mothers and the Elderly

Gray Ayer

Food Not Bombs! (FNB) Olympia has been sharing free vegan meals for many years now to a wide variety of people, ranging from single moms, punk rock travelers, the "homeless", and students. These gourmet meals, absent of any animal products, are composed mostly of food that would otherwise get sent to the landfill. They serve openly, in public space, without permission from the authorities, a philosophy that is proactive and brilliantly simple, and with group dynamics that create lasting community/individual pride and sustained relationships.

FNB is a community of international autonomous groups with some consistent norms. FNB cooks only vegan food (free from all animal products, dairy, meat, and eggs. Honey is occasionally used) although in Olympia they occasionally bring cartons of yogurt to give away. FNB is leaderless, decentralized, and when decisions need to be made, they are done by consensus among those currently participating . FNB strives to create a better society by promoting and creating opportunity for community building through the sharing of healthy free food in comfortable atmospheres.

The name, FNB, describes the basic philosophy of this group, that society and people need to promote food, i.e. life, over bombs, i.e. death. An estimated 26% of edible food is thrown away every year in this country. Meanwhile, people go hungry, eat inadequate meals, AND STARVE. This is completely avoidable, but political, economic and cultural norms demand that people pay for their food, and that superficially, it must be perfect. In 1992, 10% of city trash was composed of edible food. This is roughly 250 million pounds of food unavailable to the hungry. It is estimated that only 50 million pounds of food are needed to end hunger in America. Therefore, as a reaction to this wastefulness, Food Not Bombs promotes food recovery.

Food Recovery can mean gleaning produce from local organic farms that is not pretty enough for market; it can mean arranging with local restaurants to pick up their left over unserved food; picking up damaged produce at markets; or retrieving food that has already made its way into a dumpster. While the local Olympia Food Co-ops are very conscious about wasting food, offering a reduced produce bin, and donating the rest to Bread and Roses and FNB, other

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, its because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@ olywa.net

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Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Letters, briefs, etc.

Tim Eyman Pied!

At noon, just desserts were served to Tim Eyman,drafter of the "son of 695". Tim Eyman was Pied in the Capitol Rotunda on Wednesday, June 28th as he presented signatures for Initiative 745 to the Secretary of State's office in the state capitol building. Initiative 745 which would further defund public transportation agencies across the state if approved by voters in November. As he emerged from the office, flanked by state troopers, two pies made contact with his astonished face. Red cherry filling dripping off his cheek, and a piece of crust smushed into his hair. The unknown "entarteurs" made a hasty exit.

Wildlife Damage Review

In regards to your story about killing our local Canada Geese. Do you know about an organization called Wildlife Damage Review? This Arizona-based group has one main mission — to put the USDA's Animal Services, formally known as Animal Damage Control, out of business.

Real sweet folks these Animal Services types.

A few years back, the port of Olympia was going to hire ADC to "take care of the coyote problem" at the Olympia Airport. Turns out there was no problem. Turns out the only problem was with the ADC contract killer, a biologist from the Tenino area who lost out on a nice lucrative killing job in his own back yard. You'd love the humane ways ADC, oops, I mean Animal Services — sounds more genteel, doesn't it — dispatches their targets. But that's another story.

For more info on Wildlife Damage Review and what they do, check out their website at:

<http://www.azstarnet..com/~wdr>

I don't expect there to much public sentiment in favor of the geese. After all, this earth was created for us humans to do whatever the heck we want to do with it, and if we make a place that happens to be attractive to a bunch of stupid birds and they want to crap all over it, well, by golly, they're gonna have to pay for it.

Carl Cook

Supreme Court an Issue

The Supreme Court will grab a share of the spotlight along with health care, education, and the environment, during election 2000. Supreme Court judges set precedents on issues that stand and shape society for years in advance. They are appointed for life by the current president in office. If George W. Bush is elected president, he has already said he will appoint judges in the same mold as Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas. With two more conservatives appointed (three judges are over 70 years old), the balance and control of the Court will be shifted far enough right that Scalia and Thomas will get their wish. Prayer will be returned to the classroom; gay rights will again be shackled, and abortion will be recriminalized. It will be a done deal with a conservative Court.

Ron Lowe

Locked-out Steelworkers call for help in Tacoma

Steelworkers need our help again—

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WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, July 12st

Proofreading Potluck

Monday, July 24th
6pm in Priest Point Park
(meet by the swings)
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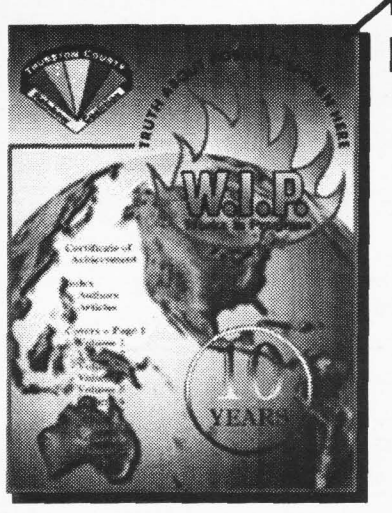

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JULY 2000

War on Drugs

Punishment and Racial Prejudice

- **Nationwide, blacks comprise 62 percent of drug offenders admitted to state prison. In seven states, blacks constitute between 80 and 90 percent of all people sent to prison on drug charges.**
- **Nationwide, black men are sent to state prison on drug charges at 13 times the rate of white men**
- **Two out of five blacks sent to prison are convicted of drug offenses, compared to one in four whites**
- **Black men are incarcerated at 9.6 times the rate of white men. In eleven states, they are incarcerated at rates that are 12 to 26 times greater than that of white men**
- **Nationwide, one in every 20 black men over the age of 18 is in prison. In five states, between one in 13 and one in 14 black men is in prison**
- **One in every 20 black men over the age of 18 in the United States is in state or federal prison, compared to one in 180 white men**
- **More people are sent to prison in the United States for nonviolent drug offenses than for crimes of violence**

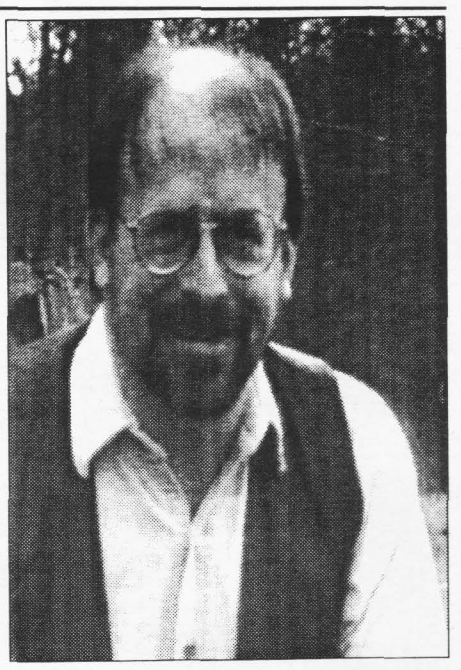
Source: Human Rights Watch, *Punishment and Prejudice: Racial Disparities in the War on Drugs*, June 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
These racial disparities are a national scandal. Black and white drug offenders get radically different treatment in the American justice system. This is not only profoundly unfair to blacks, it also corrodes the American ideal of equal justice for all. **Ken Roth, Ex. Director of Human Rights Watch**				JUNE S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	AUGUST S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	**1** **1999**: Congress passes bill to protect businesses from Y2K related lawsuits
2 **1999**: 5.5 earthquake rocks South Sound **1999**: Initiative 695 signatures turned in	**3** **1999**: Survey reports cost of living in Olympia is 7.2% higher than the national average	**4** **1999**: US blocks Russia from sending peacekeeping troops into Kosovo	**5** **1999**: NATO allows Russia to send 3,600 troops as part of 50,000 NATO force	**6** **1999**: Labor Dept claims Boeing interfered w/ enforcement of affirmative action	**7** **1999**: WA state Supreme Court upholds the state's workplace smoking ban	**8** **1998**: Tumwater accepts grant for police officers at both high schools
9 **1960**: Khrushchev threatens US if Washington attempts to oust the Castro regime	**10** **1902**: Explosion kills 125 PA miners **1997**: US House votes to end NEA funding	**11** **1999**: Justice Dept reports 15% of prisoners in jails/prisons suffer from mental illness	**12** **1998**: Three young brothers burn to death in a sectarian attack in Northern Ireland	**13** **1787**: The Continental Congress excluded slavery from the Northwest Territory	**14** **1798**: Congress passes Sedition Act of 1798 **1999**: US jets strike 13 Iraqi defense targets	**15** **1995**: 2 young adults suffer abusive police, arrested outside Thekla on trumped up charges
16 **1997**: Dow hits 8,000 **1999**: Experts say July 2nd earthquake was actually 5.9 not 5.5	**17** **1997**: WA State Investment Board votes not to sell $255 million of tobacco stocks	**18** **1997**: Judge upholds firing of officer forcing couple to attend anti-abortion counseling	**19** **1999**: Omak agrees to hold Stampede Suicide Race even though Colville withdrew	**20** **1894**: Justice Dept breaks Pullman Strike issuing injunction ordering to protect mail	**21** **1915**: Supreme Court strikes "grandfather" clause barring blacks from voting	**22** **1931**: Tax moratorium put into effect in Kansas to help 1000s of distressed farmers
23 **1999**: 14 Serbian farmers harvesting hay are killed near British peacekeeping troops	**24** **1847**: Brigham Young and his Mormon followers arrive at Great Salt Lake Valley, Utah	**25** **1900**: An angry mob terrorizes New Orleans; many blacks beaten and killed	**26** **1953**- Fidel Castro begins the revolution **1918**: Wilson demands end to lynchings	**27** **1919**: Troops mobilize for Chicago riot; 15 whites and 23 blacks killed, +500 injured	**28** **1999**: Surgeon General declares suicide serious national threat; more so than homicide	**29** **1999**: Federal judge orders Clinton to pay a $90,000 fine for giving false testimony
30 **1866**: White Democrats attack convention of black/white Republicans in New Orleans	**31** **1996**: Clinton will sign Republican welfare bill limiting assistance to families w/ children	**Just one more reason to support Books to Prisoners** • **Provide books on African-american history, studies and literature** • **Become a volunteer, donate money, stamps, tape or wrapping paper** **Located at 116 E 4th Ave • 360 943-2375 • See page 10 for more info**				

Crossing the Line

A Balance of Passions:

County Commissioner Candidate Steve Langer Discusses His Longtime Political Activism



Oral History by Megan Davis

Steve Langer is the chair of the Henderson Inlet Watershed Council, a founding member of the Carnegie Group, and a privately practicing psychologist. A long-time Olympia resident, he lives on a small farm with his wife and daughter. I met Steve during his first run for county commissioner in'96, when, against all odds and predictions, he rose from unknown status to gain 48.5% of the vote. This year marks his second run at the commissioner's seat. This oral history was made from an interview with Steve last spring at the Fishbowl.

My identical twin brother and I were born in the hospital in Richland, Washington. My father was a farmhand over there. He'd emigrated from Germany after the war. The first language I learned was German, at home.

My mother died when I was eight. My father felt that he really couldn't take care of three boys – my twin brother and I, and then my older brother was nine – and we were sent to Germany to live with our aunt and uncle and lived there for five years. Once he remarried then we sort of reconstituted a family, and then he got re-employed by Boeing and... was transferred to Seattle. We went to junior high and high school in the United States, and then went to the University of Washington.

What brought you to Olympia?

I was actually looking for a job.... I ended up applying for a job in Olympia, and that's the one I got. So I worked at a pain clinic over on Lilly Road. That's how I got started.

The Solution Universe

I'm a psychologist by profession, as you know, and I feel my job as a psychologist is an activist role. I know that this probably sounds kind of naive, but I think that when you're in this world you have a choice. You can do things that help improve the world, or you can do things that either are neutral or make things worse. I wanted to have a job to help make things better, even on a small scale, so as part of my commitment as a psychologist about 20-25% of the people that I see, I either see at a significantly reduced rate or at no charge. There are a whole lot of people out there who don't have access to quality mental health care, and I want to do something about that.... I think that mental health care should be a right, not a privilege.

I use what's called "solution-focused therapy." In fact, I train other mental health professionals in this method. It's a way of doing therapy that is respectful of people, a strength, skills and resources-oriented model that helps people become empowered in their life, and not a pathology-oriented model that disempowers them by making them feel bad about how screwed up they are. In my opinion, it's an important aspect to how I can make a difference.

The idea is to empower people to be the best they can be. I radically accept when they say, "This is the best I can be." Accept it, rather than, "No, no, you should be different than that." It doesn't matter to me if, say, someone is a lesbian, or if they are Native American or African American, or if they have two kids or no kids. All those things are not – It's not the point. It's all part of what they have to work with, but it's all just part of the material that they bring to the situation, and then what do you do with it?

I think that's been really true for my political activity too. I certainly want to identify problems, but I'd much rather have us build on the resources we already have, and really make those work for us. And often times what happens then is that the problems that we have become incidental to us achieving the goals that we want to, rather than simply becoming the end somehow. If you have a goal that you're striving towards, then the problems are just things you get to deal with as you work towards what you want. It's almost like, the solution universe, or the goal universe, follows different rules than the problem universe.

I think a lot of people get into things to oppose something. And I've always gotten into things because I'm advocating something.

Let me give you an example. I'm the chair of the Henderson Inlet Watershed Council. Our goal is to have clean water in Henderson Inlet, and a way to measure it is that the shellfish that are growing there can be harvested at any time, because they're good to eat. That's my goal. And whatever we need to do to achieve that goal is ok with me. Now of course there's things like failing septics, there's storm water run-off, there's run-off from, say, poor animal-keeping practices. But those are just bumps in the road to get to what we want. So I always find it's important to define what it is that we want rather than just what it is that we don't want.

Like, people who define their work as aiming to stop logging on public lands could instead define their goal differently, as aiming towards a Forest Service that acts as a true steward of healthy ecosystems.

Right. Or if you say that, "This is how we want the forests to look. What can we do to work towards that and make that happen? What do we need to stop, but also what do we need to do instead?" It opens up a number of options that you don't have if you're fighting against things. Because then the only alternative you have is the absence of something. Unless you have the presence of positive, at the point [when you succeed] you just have to go fight with somebody else. And I'd rather not fight if I don't have to. I'd rather work within a system if it's working, but if it isn't working to then step out of the system and do something to change the system... I think a lot of people get into things to oppose something. And I've always gotten into things because I'm advocating something.

Watershed Action

How did you get involved with the Henderson Inlet Watershed Council?

I started out with what now, in retrospect, seems like almost a silly problem that I wanted to fix. Water skiers had set up a course in front of my property. The problem is that the action of the waves will erode the banks very quickly. There was a Henderson Inlet Watershed Action Team which was meeting to develop a watershed plan through the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority. I was told that they would be the people to talk to about including an element in their plan dealing with water skiers.

So I went there and I presented my concern, but at the same time I listened to some of the presentations being made to educate the Watershed Action Team members. And it fascinated me. I decided, "Wow, I'm gonna stick around and listen." So I just kept coming, and I became an informal member of the Watershed Action Team. After the plan was written a number of us advocated for a Watershed Council to oversee implementation of the plan because Thurston County is famous for developing plans and then letting them gather dust on some shelf, rather than actually being implemented.

And so I became a part of the Watershed Council. I was a co-chair for a while and then I became the chair of the Watershed Council, I think in 1991. And I've been chair ever since, advocating for clean water in the Henderson Inlet – cleaning up the water that's there, and then maintaining that clean water. I think working with water quality is a really good way to be involved, because it's the common denominator for many, many things. Water sustains this whole Earth. If you can get the water part right, you're getting a lot of other things right too.

Is the watershed plan actually being implemented?

Well, yes and no. Tremendous strides have been made. In fact, before plan implementation there was a direct relationship between population increase and increase in pollution in the inlet. The lines on the graph just followed each other beautifully. When the Watershed Plan was implemented, the pollution line flattened out even though the population exploded. And so we were, I think, successful in disconnecting the pollution from the population increase.

But now we're running into a problem in part of the so-called "conditionally open area," that is, places where you can harvest shellfish, but only if it's rained less than ¾ of an inch in the last 24 hours. Recently it's been downgraded because of pollution problems, so that if it rains ½ an inch in 24 hours you can't harvest. And, by the way, because it was downgraded, that eliminates 120 days that Jerry Yamashita, the owner of the shellfish place, can harvest. In fact, they're on the verge of closing down that part of the inlet.

It's because there's been a dramatic drop –in the last several years– in enforcement of existing regulations. Cooperation with the Health Department in examining your septic system has dropped from somewhere around 96% to less than 50%. And the Health Department needs to get a search warrant, which means they first essentially have to prove that the septic is failing, before they can go on the property to test the septic to see if it's failing. Obviously, that doesn't work.

When we find a problem in a "mini-watershed," there should be some mechanism for the Health Department to examine all the septics and all the potential pollution sources in that mini-watershed. The Health Department should be able to say, "This area's a problem. We need to fix it."

It's a huge problem. And in fact, I'm going to be testifying in front of the county commissioners about this here in the near future. I'm going to keep raising some hell about this issue.

Letting Growth Pay for Growth

I know you helped create the Carnegie Group a few years ago. What's that all about?

In the Carnegie Group, I have a vision of what I want: That we retain the sense of community in Olympia, and, in fact, improve on it, rather than just let Olympia grow and sprawl into being another Anywhere, USA. I guess what I want to encourage is development rather than growth. If we can make this a better place, by all means we should do it. But just to be bigger is rarely to be better. It's usually worse.

A lot of people think growth and development are synonymous.

I don't think they are synonymous at all. I think that if we can, for example, make the Procession of the Species workshop something that happens year-round, that'd be a wonderful thing. That'd be a development, as far as I'm concerned. But just getting more suburban subdivisions is the last thing I think we should do. It makes things worse. It subtracts from the community rather than adding to it.

Currently, the local taxpayer pays

(Continued next page)

(Langer, continued)

approximately $20,000-30,000 (or maybe more than that) for each home that is built in Thurston County, because of the way we designed our taxes' rate structure on things like the sewer, roads, parks, and fire protection for example. The City of Olympia, in projecting their budget out into the future, has realized that they're going to be running a significant budget deficit, I think to the tune of $6 million in a number of years. And the reason for that is because growth does not pay for itself.

Why does the Chamber of Commerce encourage growth?

Because they have a dogma that involves, "Growth is good no matter what. Even if it destroys us, it's good." In other words, I don't think they have thought it through very well. Because most of the people who are in the Chamber of Commerce are small local businesses! They have this sort of "free market" mentality that in fact is not a free market mentality, because there's so many subsidies involved.

Same thing with the Economic Development Council here in Thurston County. Its job is to promote "economic development." But really they, in fact, many times subtract from economic development. They invite a Mattress Factory that used to be in Tacoma. All of us taxpayers now get to pay to build new roads, and so on, so that they can be building mattresses in Thurston County rather than Tacoma. Which I don't think is fair to the taxpayer, number one. And number two, the people at the Mattress Factory make on the average about $10-11 an hour, which is about $5.00 less than the average wage in Thurston County. [And] we've actually impoverished those people who live in Tacoma and work in the factory, because now they have all the transportation costs to contend with. And so we have not done them a favor, nor have we done Thurston County a favor.

The economic development people say that, "Any increased employment is good employment." I don't think that that's the case. I think that we should be very selective about the kinds of businesses that we support and encourage. And I think the primary businesses we ought to support are the local businesses, because many of the local businesses are the ones that really provide the majority of the jobs in the area.

When you actually subsidize Circuit City, Home Depot, Barnes and Noble, these are large, multi-state and oftentimes multinational corporations who bring in low-wage jobs, they then take their profit out of the community and take it home to New York or somewhere else. So Barnes and Noble exports the profits and the local bookstores like Four Seasons Books, with good jobs and people who have a sense of community, go out of business.

There is a handful of local people who profit from rampant growth, and that's the developers.

The irony is that most of the developers, that is the builders, a lot of them go bankrupt and a lot of them just barely scrape by. Many are actually on the ragged edge. It isn't like there's this guilty party out there that's raking in the big bucks. I think in some cases that's true, but in many cases it's not. But the effect is the same, which is that it diminishes the community.

And so, we have three choices. We can have growth pay for growth, which is ideal, which probably also has an impact on how much growth we have, we can have the local ratepayer pay for it, which is what mostly happens now, and so there's more money out of all our pockets. Or we can decide that government is the problem, and that there's too much government. Of course, the trouble is that government provides services that we need. And then we diminish our quality of life, if we say, "No, we should not regulate these places. We should not charge them impact fees." We actually end up accelerating the process of destroying the community.

I think we need to wake people up and let them know that if a Barnes and Noble wants to locate here they have every right to do so. I would not deprive them of that right. But I wouldn't encourage it, and I wouldn't subsidize it. And I think they would make different kinds of business decisions, because they're looking at the financial bottom line and that's the only consideration.

I think that being involved in the Carnegie Group, and involving myself very directly in some of these issues has been a tremendous education for me. It's been very good for me in broadening my sense of what we can do to make this a better place for everybody.

How do you manage to remain so active politically, year after year?

I think that I have ten lifetimes worth of things to do, and I've only got one lifetime. So I'm only cramming about 2 ½ lifetimes into one lifetime. *[He laughs.]* I'd rather have it that way than the other way around, where I don't know what to do with myself. I'd much rather have lots of things I want to do and not be able to do them all, than not have something to feel passionate about. ◆

Up Front

Father's Day June 18, 2000

Jerome Johnson

Dear Dad,

I guess I'm just as surprised as you by this letter. It's my first to you, and I hope you don't mind it's an open letter.

You know, I was supposed to write about arms control this month. Missile defense, and China and Russia, and how Al, Dubya and Slick Willie are all pandering to Star Wars-loving Reaganites by demanding and testing a system they know won't work for lots of reasons. I was all set, with my info ready, when my best friend called. As we talked, she wished me a happy Father's Day.

Well, Dad, that set me back a minute. I never married or had any children of my own (yes, I'm sure.) I'm not in a relationship, and except for Mother I don't have a family. There have been women and love and relationships, but I remain a bachelor to this day. But I work as a juvenile counselor for incarcerated youth, and I have six young men on my caseload. Ironically enough, most of my job is parenting. You might ask, Where are THEIR parents? Well, even when they're around and involved, I'm still the one who sees them every day and works with them on their problems, and I do most of the work. You'll be pleased to know that I'm considered to be the best at what I do. The case manager even calls me "Poppa" sometimes because of how I do my job. So while I wasn't entirely surprised by GiGi's wellwish, it did make me think more than usual.

Father's Day is pretty low-key at our house, most times. Mother has kept your memory alive through her stories and so on. Usually she'll tell me about your lives — this year she told me about how when you two were in Europe, and how tough a time Capt. Mayfield had. And as usual I drank in every word, pepppering her with questions. Sometimes she gets a little impatient with me, but she understands I'm trying to get the whole picture. She's told me how you met and married, the times in Europe and D.C., the context of the times. We still laugh about how you nearly killed a colonel because he liked Mother. And not just on Father's Day—she talks about you often, and thanks to her I've felt you've been part of my life, I feel connected to you.

And maybe I'm more thoughtful because I'm 38 now, the same age you were when you passed, and both Mother and I are aware that I'll probably outlive you. I often wonder what you'd think of me (Mother says you'd be proud). Besides my job, I do a little civil rights work part-time. I have hobbies — the newest is gardening — and I drive a nice little car. I've never been in real trouble and I've always been a fine student, both in the classroom and the dojo. My favorite compliments from Mother are the ones where she says, "Bill would've done it like that". She's very amused by the fact that while your game was poker, mine is pool, although I'm not good enough to play for money yet. But she always made sure I knew who my daddy was, and for that I'll always be grateful to her.

Even with the great job Mother did, it was hard growing up without you, Dad. Especially after a bad day at Garfield, I used to wish that you weren't really dead, just some awful mistake had been made. I wished that one day you'd just drive up to the house, walk up to the door and take us away somewhere we could live as a family, just like other folks. For a long time, every time there was an unexpected knock on the door a secret little voice in my heart would hope that it was you. But time passed, I grew up, and like Mother, learned to accept it.

Well, I'd better get this off to my editor. He's a stickler for deadlines, although he always puts up with me (like everyone else.) Although we never got to know each other, thanks to Mother, I feel connected to you. With her, you picked a winner.

We love you, Dad.
your son,
Jerome

◆

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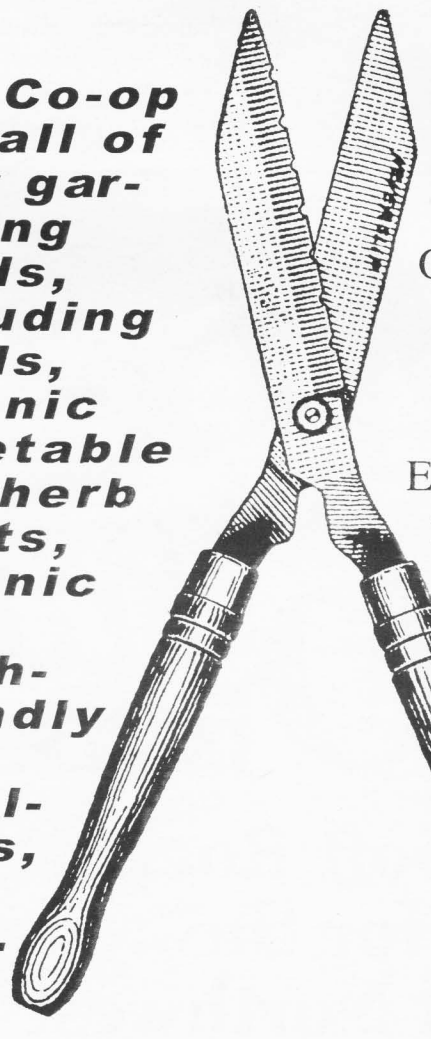

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Ron Jacobs

How many of us are aware of the big business of incarceration? If you are a prisoner who is housed in an MDU, do you know who makes these monstrosities? Are you aware of the profit involved in their manufacture and sale? Do people really understand the amount of money involved in the lease and sale of lands to prison facilities or the cash generated by providing prison services such as food and transport? Where does this money come from and where does it go?

In a system dominated by no motivation other than profit, it should come as no surprise that the lives of those who have little in the way of assets are looked at in terms of how they can be exploited. For most of us, this means the exploitation of our labor in the global factory with the illusory promise of eventual financial independence as our reward. Those at the bottom of capital's hierarchy -- the poor and disenfranchised—rarely entertain such illusions. Instead, their lives are spent just struggling to survive and stay out of prison. Unfortunately, staying out of prison is becoming more difficult, especially for the disenfranchised in the United States. Why is this so? Primarily because the men and women behind the latest push for profit have realized that more money can be made from locking up the poor and unemployed than by helping them on the outside. To this end, many prisoners have been put to work at low wages while taxpayers foot the bill and prisons and their functions have been privatized. In order to profit from these strategies, more prisons must be built and be filled to (or above) capacity. Consequently, the corporations who build and service prisons lobby for laws calling for greater incarceration and support politicians who write such laws. In addition, they encourage state legislatures to turn over their penal systems to their businesses and provide cozy real estate deals to facilitate the building of more prisons. Perhaps Corrections Corporation of America (CCA)—one of the largest private prison management concerns in the world—says it best with their advertising slogan: "If you build it, they will come." What's left unsaid here is that CCA and its corporate cohorts will do their best to insure that they do come, including offering their detention services to states that are short on prison beds. It is this philosophy that lends credence to the analysis popular among prison abolitionists that compares the current imprisonment drive to the Atlantic slave trade where humans (not their labor) were considered capital. In other words, it is the prisoners themselves that turn a profit and not any value they might produce through their labor.

Sodexho/Marriott and CCA

Thanks to recent protests in Seattle, Washington, DC, and elsewhere around the world, most readers are aware of the creeping spectre of globalization. Fewer are aware of how this phenomenon affects prisons. However, as students at various campuses made clear this past academic year in their protests against their campuses' food service agreement with Sodexho/Marriott, the connection is as obvious as the food on their plate. In 1998, Marriott and the French conglomerate Sodexho merged operations. Included as part of this package was the incorporation of CCA into the Marriott sphere. Earlier, in 1994, CCA had entered into a strategic alliance with Sodexho which provided each company with a 50% share of CCA. This alliance is not restricted to just France and the United States, either. In fact, as of 1999, Sodexho/Marriott/CCA has managed or manages prisons in the United Kingdom, France, Puerto Rico and Australia, and hopes to expand into eastern Europe, Germany, Latin America and Canada. In 1999, Sodexho/Marriott showed a net income of 60 million dollars and had total assets of over 1.3 billion dollars. In the U.S., CCA manages more than 50% of the existing private prison facilities and added over 18,000 beds in 1998 alone, bringing their total to over 70,000 throughout the world. In addition, the corporation has a special working arrangement with Prison Realty Trust — a company which provides financing, design, construction and renovation of new and existing jails and prisons that it leases to both private and governmental managers. Prison Realty currently owns or is developing 50 correctional and detention facilities in 17 states, the District of Columbia and the United Kingdom and recently entered into an agreement with Pacific Life Insurance that, in effect, bailed Prison Realty out to the tune of 200 million dollars.

American Buildings, Inc.

American Buildings Incorporated (ABI) has been in the metal construction business since 1947 and is headquartered in the town of Eufaula, Alabama. For those readers who have worked in construction, their Windsor Door products might be familiar. Recently, it entered into the prison construction industry with the development of its modular dorm units or MDUs. As Kenny Houck (the inspiration behind Southland Prison News-a prison journal written primarily by prisoners covering the south and northeastern U.S.) described these units to me in a letter, they are "not just the open 'dorms' containing 180 inmates each. It's the whole compound: administrative building, chow hall, medical unit....". He further estimates the total cost for a 1,250 bed prison to be 35 million dollars and that there are probably more than 200 in existence. Perhaps this helps to explain their 1998 earnings increase of 16%. In dollar amounts, this translates to over $455 million in sales and income from continuing operations. In May of 1999, ABI was acquired by the Canadian-based corporation Onex (annual sales of $5.9 billion), which in turn formed a holding company called Magnatrax, of which ABI became a stand-alone subsidiary. The transaction had a total value of around $271 million. If the merger of Sodexho/Marriott/CCA is any indication, the acquisition of ABI by ONEX will probably help the company to expand its business overseas, creating an even greater presence of U.S. industry in the international incarceration industry.

In 1999, Sodexho/Marriott/CCA has managed or manages prisons in the United Kingdom, France, Puerto Rico and Australia, and hopes to expand into eastern Europe, Germany, Latin America and Canada.

Another player in the private prisons market is Wackenhut Corrections Corporation. Wackenhut may be the fastest growing corrections management concern today with a reported first quarter revenue increase in 2000 of 33.9 percent to $130.5 million from $97.4 million in the first quarter of 1999. Much of this increase can be attributed to the award of a contract by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons to design, construct and manage a new 1,200-bed facility in North Carolina. Wackenhut was founded in 1954 by George Wackenhut, a former FBI agent and is involved in the private security business on many fronts—in nuclear facilities, airports and municipalities, and corporations such as Exxon. It also manages the federal Job Corps. Currently, Wackenhut is the industry leader in the private prison international market, with awards or contracts for over 55 percent of the prison beds which have been privatized in countries outside of the United States. It employs over 50,000 personnel and has annual earnings of approximately 1 billion dollars.

Obviously, these are huge sums of money and, if current incarceration trends continue, they are sure to grow. If other aspects of globalization replicate themselves in the criminal justice arena as they have in every other arena: for example, the homogeneity of government policy (thanks to WTO-enforced rulings against so-called barriers to free trade) and the ever-growing disparity between the world's wealthy and the rest of us, one can be certain that these corporations will be willing and ready to turn a profit from the new crop of prisoners certain to arise, no matter where they may be located.

Sources: Hoover's Online, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, AFSCME, Corrections United Website ◆

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Land of the Free, Home of the Slave

Wesley Everett

I am a construction worker at the Stafford Creek Prison near Aberdeen, Washington. How the hell did I get this glorious job and why the hell don't I quit? I ask myself these questions over and over every single day that I am here. I knew one member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW or Wobblies), who worked out here and hated it. He hated every aspect of his participation in the building of yet another example of this country's growing prison industry. Industry? yes my friends, prisons mean money. Not necessarily for the town that has one, but for large corporations who can use prisoners as cheap labor. While here, my friend helped raise the consciousness of prison labor and participated in a rally of 50 or more union workers protesting against the use of prison/slave labor to replace union workers. Eventually my friend lost his security clearance and was placed at another jobsite.

Another Wobbly flat out refused to work the site.

So here I sit in my tent listening to the rain and wondering what my role here will be. Should I quit, possibly sacrificing my job? An apprentice is easily replaced. Should I agitate for a full-blown walk-out? Not very likely when people I work with tell me that they just try not to think about where they are or make jokes about the future inhabitants.

Being here brings up so many questions for me. Questions I would have liked to have easy answers to, but know there are none. I think about what freedom is, what justice is, and about who is going to live in the cell that I am standing in. I think of Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu Jamal and Christopher Plummer and a hundred other political prisoners in this, the land of the free. I see the faces of my friends beaten and threatened with rape at the hands of the police and jailers during the WTO, and again I wonder why am I here?

I talked with some of my friends about my working at the prison. They have all pointed out that I could certainly quit, but would only be replaced by someone who wouldn't question the reality of this place. So, here I stay. I walk into the maximum security cell and take out my tape measure. 14' x 6'2" with a corner cut out for the sink and toilet. A 2'4" x 6'6" cement slab serves as the bed. Two 3" slits are the windows.

Another worker tells me that the prisoners will spend 23 hours per day in their cells and 1 hour outside, where they can take a shower or hang out in the "day room", (a larger open space shared by the other 25 prisoners in their pod), or they can walk in the "dog run", (a thin strip of outdoors surrounded with razor wire). I think about critiques of our capitalist economy and the term "ALIENATION" comes to mind.

One way of seeing alienation is the removal of a worker's control over the things he or she creates. In other words, under capitalism, people are alienated and have no control over the final product of their work, ie. quality, quantity, distribution and especially the profits.

Another type of alienation is the kind between one person and another or perhaps the rest of society. I am obviously not a criminal psychologist or sociologist, but it doesn't take one to realize that when a person commits a violent crime, and anti-social act, what the hell sense is it in locking the person up for 10 to 20 years, for 23 hours a day in a 14' x 6'2" cell, surrounded by others who supposedly have done similar acts, guarded by Gunther, the lumber eating barbarian, and expect them to be released more socially adjusted than before?

He made it sound like all of these guys, (who were all minimum security), were Rambo prodigies and would twist your head off as soon as look at you.

During my orientation, one of the guards told us that we need to have locking gas caps. This was because there were 60 some odd minimum security prisoners working around the compound and "they" could put a rag in your gas tank and light it, blowing up your car at one end of the compound and escape from the other side. He made it sound like all of these guys, (who were all minimum security), were Rambo prodigies and would twist your head off as soon as look at you. Unfortunately, some of the other new construction workers started muttering to themselves about how these damn criminals were treated better than hard working Americans. Bleeecchhhhh!

The intent of the orientation and that of the guard was to try to pit one group against the other so we cannot see any common ground and no solidarity. Yea, what kind of solidarity do I have with some rapist I ask myself. Well, honestly I have little desire to hold his hand and sing old Wobbly songs, but if construction workers get mad at the prisoners for working and replacing union laborers, (which has already been done), the prison administrators have just saved labor costs and ultimately pitted the wage slaves against the prison slaves. This is the same game that is done by using race, gender, sexual orientation, religious and a thousand other differences as tools to blind us to the reality that there are those who create, and those who make a profit off our sweat.

This is ALIENATION.

I know that many of the people that will be imprisoned here will be here for violent crimes and that the victims may want nothing more than to see their assailant put away, but statistically we see patterns in economic power and violent crime as well as patterns in race of suspect and arrests/sentencing. Those with little economic power are more likely to use violence to gain power, except of coarse if you are a head of state or a corporate CEO. African Americans are more likely to be arrested and receive harsher sentences than whites.

80 years ago, working people confronted the powerful timber barons of the Northwest. Their hope was to wrest the economic power away from the few and give it back to the many. Tens of thousands joined the anti-capitalist labor union, the Industrial Workers of the World to reassert worker control over production and distribution. Through years of attacks, many of these Wobblies were thrown into prison for nothing more than belonging to the union.

As the timber unions became weaker, labor protections became less, leaving only a few insecure union jobs. Somewhere around the 1970's - 1980's, more and more unsustainable cutting practices began to be used, for as capitalism uses the workers to the greatest degree for the most profits, it also uses all resources for the most profits. Towns like Aberdeen, Washington, once a timber boom town, watched as its main industry, timber, crush workers' rights and protections and destroy, not only an unreplenishable eco-system, but also destroy any hopes that the next generation of kids would have jobs because most of the old forests had been clearcut.

I've been told that Aberdeen has the highest welfare rate of any city in all of Washington. Supporters of the Stafford Creek Prison claimed more jobs would be created with the construction of this new minimum/medium/maximum security prison, but of the locals I have talked with, none are convinced. It reminds me of the scene in Michael Moore's film, "Roger and Me", when General Motors closed its plant in Flint, Michigan. Crime rose as people were put out of work. Some of the former GM workers became guards in the newly constructed prison, guarding many of their former workmates.

At night I lay in my sleeping bag or in a bed at a motel when it is too rainy and imagine what many of those old Wobblies would say to me building this prison, building this temple to capitalism, building Leviatian. If the information I pass on to you the reader worth my participation? Does my ability to see the inside and experience just a fraction of the lies, the torture, the cancer of our society outweigh the hours I spend with hammer and drill, wire snips and putty knife? Am I building the future home for members of the Praxis Collective? Earth First!? Other Wobblies? Or myself for that matter?

At some point the answer will become obvious to me. At some point, I will have taken all that I can stomach. But until that time, I'm learning and speaking and organizing and bearing witness and hopefully passing on this education to you. ◆

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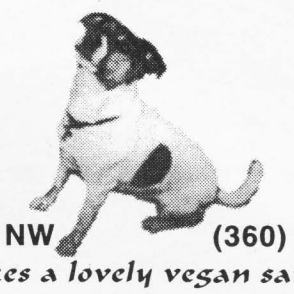

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(Arrest, continued)

tions. Small fine, sure! maybe even have charges dropped by prosecutor, Thank you, I'm outta here.

It is a bad experience to be under arrest and really bad when it happens to someone green to working for peace, equality, the earth and all that is good. We just can't let this happen. It is also important to remember that freedom of assembly and speech are rights we still have. We all need to know our rights or we could lose them by erosion.

The city of Olympia is in need of a police citizen review board. The ranks of our police force have some very good officers among them but we still need to keep them all trained and accountable for their actions. Without proper civil rights training and accountability, problems like I encountered will happen again, as they have already. These mistakes will continue costing the city many thousands of dollars.

Of the $2500 I'm receiving, $1300 will go towards covering my lawyers and my expenses. The remaining $1200 will be put toward a non-profit production group structured to do fundraising for activist groups working on peace and social justice causes. Keep your ears open and VIVA Cop Watch! ◆

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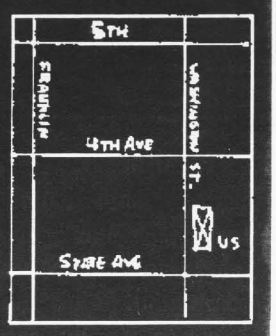

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(FNB, continued)

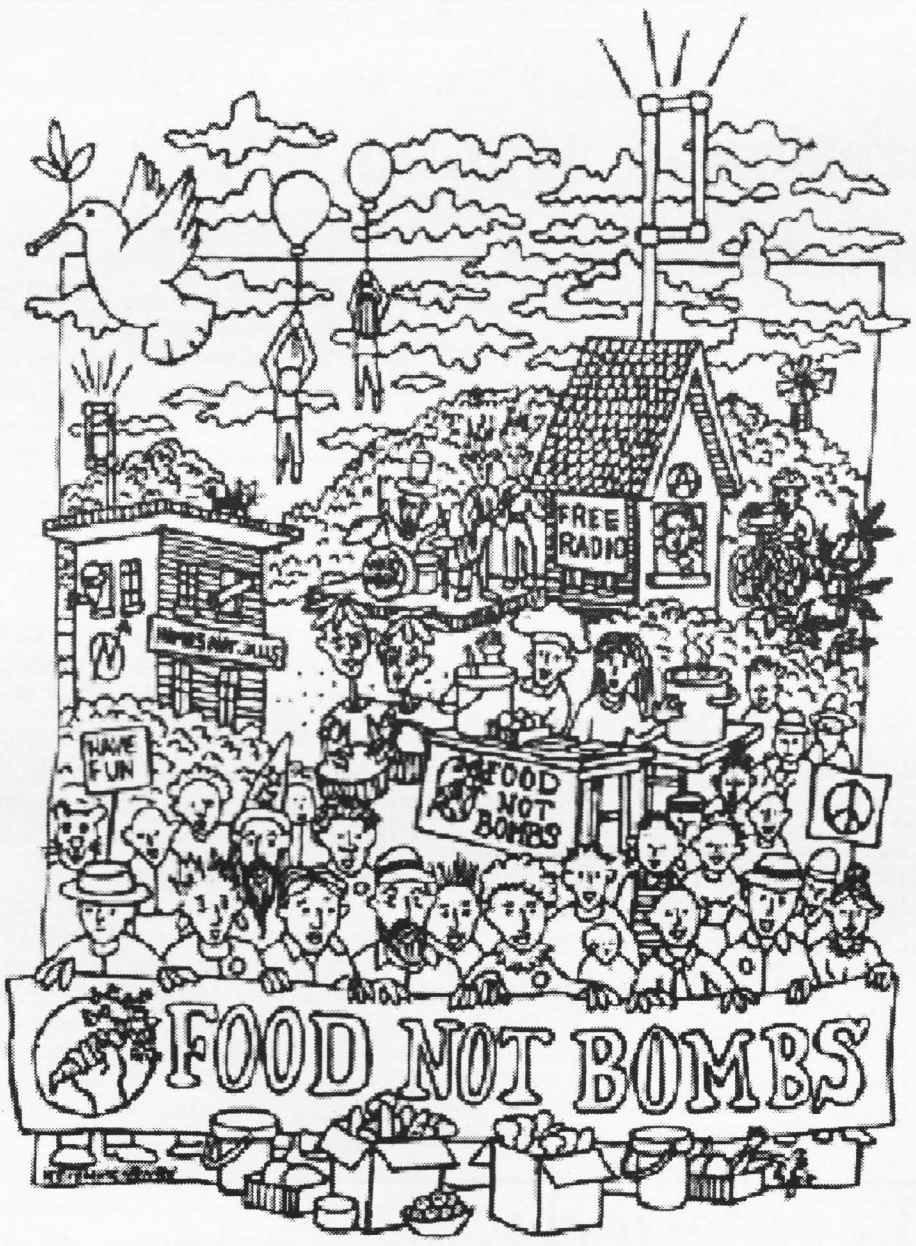
groceries and supermarkets are more interested in appearance and profit. Several trips have been made to Seattle to scavenge from the plentiful fancy natural food stores such as Whole Foods, PCCs, Trader Joe's, etc. It's hard to turn down 5 gallon buckets of cashews, tossed away simply because they were going stale.

FNB also raises awareness about food resources through the promotion of a vegan diet, since it is extremely more efficient in terms of land and resources. More than 70% of U.S. grain is fed to farmed animals. (USDA, World Cereals Used for Feed, 4/91) It takes almost 7 lbs. of corn and soy to produce 1 lb. of pork. (USDA, Economic Research Service Cattle-Fax, 12/8/89.) They create delicious meals out of nutritious, land efficient crops, such as soybeans and thus work towards the acceptance of this high nutrition food. By weight, regular tofu contains 35% more calcium, and silken tofu an amazing 50% more.

Food Not Bombs also does not use animal products because they see the damage it does not only to the animal but also to the environment, the economy, and ourselves. Mainstream food production is an inherently violent process, involving the slaughter of millions of animals and the poisoning of our air, water, soil, and bodies with hormones, antibiotics, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. It is obvious that the meat industry, like society, favors death and profit over life and sustainable communities. Many charity organizations and soup kitchens serve primarily low nutritional frozen pre-cooked foods and meat based meals. FNB provides an alternative to that.

FNB Olympia, however, does not preach statistics or even hand out flyers to convince people to like a vegan diet. They get the point across in the most direct way, which is to appeal to their base emotions, such as taste and the creation of an open and safe social atmosphere. Some people have described the group as the poor persons gourmet, for indeed, their creations are exquisite: savory roasted vegetables, stuffed green peppers, tofu scrambles, organic salads that lack any iceberg lettuce, complex fruit salads, hearty vegetable stews, and occasionally even cookies.

Many soup kitchens and other charity



organizations across the country institute practices that are humiliating and disempowering to their patrons, such as demanding proof of income, waiting in long lines only to be told that one is in the wrong line, sitting through sermons about the salvation of their soul, or even by well intentioned volunteers whose attitudes of charity and righteousness are insulting. FNB does none of this. Instead, they encourage those who eat to join in the process of cooking, setting up, and cleaning. This provides an opportunity for them to regain their power and recognize their ability to contribute and make a change. I've met many people across the country that actively help with FNB, because otherwise they simply couldn't eat as well.

By meeting in the open public, FNB encourages visibility and understanding of different social groups. The public space is spacious enough to provide privacy in eating under a tree, or to join a circle sharing food on the grass or under a gazebo. Eating food is fundamentally a necessity for life, and by doing so in the vicinity of others which one views as different, such as a family on welfare, a traveling gutter punk, or a group of college students, allows connections to be made easier between groups which are traditionally isolated. This is truly a revolutionary experience. While eating at Sylvester Park, I have been able to share my knowledge of Olympia for travelers, and to receive testimony of people's experience in the foster care system, police harassment, and the troubles that young parents have in raising children on minimum wage.

Since the founding of Food Not Bombs! In the early 1980's, they have been consistently harassed by the police and other authorities for their uncompromising commitment to raising awareness about issues of poverty and hunger, simply by serving free vegan food in public spaces. To do so, makes these issues extremely visible; policy makers and business owners would prefer to hide this in soup kitchens and rehabilitation centers. In San Francisco alone, there were 1,000 arrests of FNB members from 1988-1995, for charges such as sitting down on sidewalks, serving food without permits, and creating a public nuisance. In Seattle, FNB has consistently had troubles with the police over serving food at Occidental Park, a very visible location. Who would have thought that giving away free food could be so threatening. FNB Olympia has had little trouble with the authorities, perhaps because of the diversity among those eating.

FNB Olympia has been a very loose group, with no formal members, meetings, no bank accounts, no power fights, and no cases of food poisoning. And yet they consistently come with needed food at social action events such as the recent Capitol City Pride Parade, the May Day street party, the anti-WTO actions, as well as showing up to Sylvester Park, the corner of 7th and Capitol, every Sunday at 12:30 pm.

There are many ways to help: on Sundays, one can help cook at 10:30 at Bread and Roses on Cherry St, one can help set up at the park, play music, make art, or help clean at around 1:30 at Bread and Roses. One can donate their half full spice jars when they move. One can contact local businesses about food pickups. There are numerous ways to become involved. They welcome anyone interested in showing up for a few hours to experience the joy of feeding large groups of diverse people healthy exciting food. Extra help is especially needed during the summer, as more people are outside and eating at Sylvester Park.

For more information, contact Greg at 753-4947, or write to the author at grayair@yahoo.com or call 786-3743. ◆

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In Texas, Another Execution of a Convict With Mental Illness

The Criminalization of Mental Illness Continues Unabated

National Mental Health Association

As our nation's jails and prisons become the psychiatric hospitals of the new millennium, the state of Texas has executed another convict with a troubled psychiatric history. As a juvenile, Gary Graham, known as Shaka Sankofa, suffered from serious psychological and family disturbances, including clinical depression, abandonment, abuse and neglect. Before he was born, his mother, who was hospitalized for mental illness 31 times, tried to abort him by drinking turpentine. Numerous family members say she never warmed to her child, which child psychologists know exacerbates the difficulties of youth. At age 17, he was convicted of a murder upon the testimony of one eyewitness. After conviction, other witnesses presented conflicting testimony. This year alone, Texas has already executed three adults for crimes they committed when they were juveniles with serious emotional disturbances. "Execution should not be the consequence of juvenile crime, no matter how horrendous, but particularly when individuals are known to have an untreated mental illness," said Michael Faenza, President and CEO of the National Mental Health Association. "Congress established the juvenile justice system because youth do not always see the consequences of actions and youth can and should be rehabilitated." The U.S. has signed several international treaties that oppose the death penalty for people who were youth at the time of their crime. In the U.S., failure to recognize and treat mental illness has led to increased incarcerations. Approximately 10 percent of all prisoners and detainees have a serious mental illness.

"Execution should not be the consequence of juvenile crime, no matter how horrendous, but particularly when individuals are known to have an untreated mental illness" . . . Faenza

For more information on the National Mental Health Association's work in the criminal justice area, please call Patrick Cody at (703) 838-7528. NMHA is a nationwide network of mental health advocates.

Texan Belief in the Death Penalty

* 57% of Texans believe the state of Texas has executed innocent people.
* 73% of Texans support the death penalty.
* 38% of Texans say Texas has benefited from the use of the death penalty.

Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram

The Trouble with Texas Death Penalty Cases

Of the 131 cases where a death row inmate has been executed in Texas under Governor Bush:

* 43 included defense attorneys publicly sanctioned for misconduct — either — before or after their work on these cases.
* 40 involved trials where the defense attorneys presented no evidence or only one witness during the sentencing phase.
* 29 included a psychiatrist who gave testimony that the American Psychiatric Association condemned as unethical and untrustworthy.
* 23 included jailhouse informants, considered to be among the least credible of witnesses.
* 23 included visual hair analysis, which has consistently proved unreliable.

Sources: Chicago Tribune; Death Penalty Information Center

Your Help Is Needed

Because of the huge number of letters Books to Prisoners - Olympia Support Group receives each month and its limited resources, requests often wait many months to be filled. Thousands of letters still remain in boxes. Your help and generosity are urgently needed.

If we desire individuals in this country's prisons to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic, then we too need to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic. We need to "walk the talk." Please donate your time, money or books.

Inmates — All correspondence to Books to Prisoners *must* go through the main branch:
Books to Prisoners
Left Bank Books
92 Pike Street
Seattle WA 98101

Please donate:

- Any other good books
- Stamps and stamp money
- Money for tape, wrapping paper, and copying

Please bring donations of books to the Books to Prisoner at Olympia World News at 116 4th Ave in downtown Olympia

Please make checks payable to Books to Prisoners.

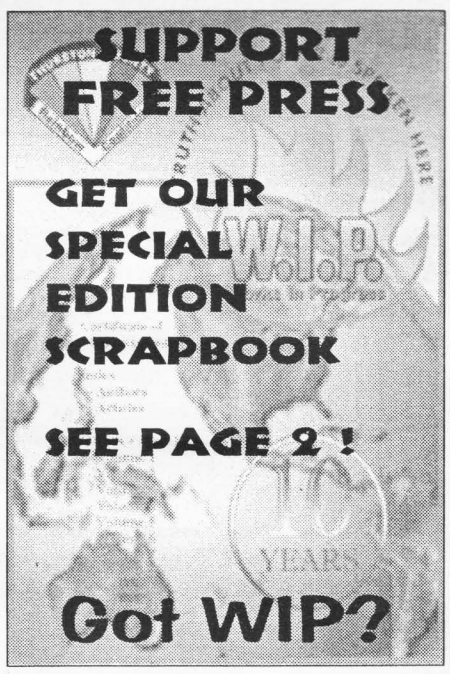
Hours: Currently, the business hours are from 9:00 am to 9:30 pm daily. Please call the message phone below and leave a message.

Address: Books to Prisoners
116 4th Ave, Olympia WA 98501

Message Phone: (360)943-2375

- Open drop in work/training sessions every Thurs. 3-9 pm in the back of Olympia World News. *Training takes 1 hour. Once you are trained you can work anytime we are open.*
- **BTP Volunteer Potluck** - 3rd Sat. of the month, 3 pm at 116 E. 4th Ave.
- **Save UPC code from Western Family Products &** send to B to P, 116 E 4th Ave, Olympia, WA 98501
- Shop at Bayview and Ralph's and use a special card and they'll donate $$ to BTP. Pick up your card at BTP now or call them and they'll mail one to you.

URGENT: If you have receipts from Bayview and Ralph's dated before July 1st, turn them in or mail them to BTP by July 10th so they can use them to pay the rent!



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BEFORE YOU FORGET, SUBSCRIBE!

SEE PAGE 2

Briefs, continued

urgently! Locked Out Kaiser Aluminum workers and their allies have been picketing the cargo ship Cupid Feather for two weeks, blocking supplies of alumina raw material to the Kaiser Tacoma and Mead plants. As a result, production has been cut in half. Kaiser and its owner MAXXAM (the notorious timber clearcutter, too) has been hurting.

The pickets have been stopping ILWU longshoremen, who are sympathetic, from unloading the ships. But the ILWU can only honor the picket line if it is big enough to satisfy their arbitrator. Recently the picket line has gotten thin. The arbitrator ruled the ILWU must cross. So the Steelworkers are calling all supporters down to the picket line at 2205 Sitcum Way off E. 11th and Thorn in Tacoma. Those in the Seattle area, please get down there and get others to go—this is a 24 hour picket so we need lots of help. For more information, contact USWA at 253-272-4748.

This is a critical battle for all labor and for all opposition to the multinationals. If we can shut down Kaiser, running with scabs, it will show the way to win strikes all over the country by cutting off supplies to struck or locked out plants. Help now in the Battle of Tacoma!

Volunteer Opportunity

Musicians and Artists Wanted

Who: Social Club – a club made up mostly of people with disabilities

What: Musicians to play music or artists to do art projects

When/re: Thursdays 11am – 2pm in a downtown location

Contact info: Contact Beth Meyer at 360-943-6257

Welfare Rights Organizing

WROC's planning and organizing meetings take place the **first Monday of each month from 5:30pm until 8pm at First United Methodist Church**, 5th and Boundary, downtown. WROC's support and information meeting is the third Tuesday of the month at Evergreen Vista Apartments, on the West Side of Olympia. Dinner and free childcare are provided at all meetings, and people can call 352-9716 for more info.

Problems with your landlord?

Call the Thurston County Tenants Union hotline at (360)**357-0615 or come by our monthly public legal clinic on Monday, July 3rd at 6pm in the downtown Olympia Library.** Meeting follows to discuss CDBG funding and update on Relocation Ordinance. Come to volunteer and join the Board.

PFLAG's Program TBA
Sunday, July 9th at 2pm
First Methodist Church
1224 Legion Way, Olympia

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is here to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. Call 866-0511 for info.

TRANSGENDER WARRIORS book

A groundbreaking book by Leslie Feinberg which chronicles transgender history and resistance from the days of the Native American matriarchy to the Stonewall rebellion and beyond. **Thursday, July 20, 7:30pm.** Dinner, with vegetarian option, available at 6:30pm for a $6.50 donation. **New Freeway Hall, 5018 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle.** Hosted by Radical Women. For more information, rides or childcare, call 206-722-6057 or 722-2453. Everyone welcome. Wheelchair accessible.

Industial Workers of the World and Earth First!
Reunion and Celebration!
Saturday, July 22 from 4:30pm to 10:00pm
Grand Central 101 North Rogers Street West Olympia

Attention any and all Wobblies and Earth First!ers in Olympia: let's get together and revel in solidarity and celebration. Don't let the tear gas from Seattle or the rainy winters keep you from seeing your friends. It is summer and a good time to re-evaluate our community, our lives and share food with one another. Please come prepared to eat with potluck items and your favorite instruments or music. If you have any questions please call 236-0639.

PRISON REFORM UNITY PROJECT 2000

JULY 15, 2000
1:00P.M. - 2:30P.M.
Olympia, Washington
State Capitol Campus - Sun Dial
John A. Cherberg Building - North Side
Peaceful Demonstration at ALL Levels

PRISON REFORM UNITY PROJECT 2000, a movement for positive prison reform, is gearing up for a nationwide demonstration to address a variety of issues, including prison conditions and the economic and social impact of the current prison system on our society. The demonstration is set for July 15 and will occur simultaneously in every state throughout the nation.

The last two meetings of the Washington chapter of the national Prison Reform Unity Project 2000 (PRUP 2000) was held at the Olympia Timberland Library. The state coordinator for Washington, Marlene Davis, encourages anyone interested in prison reform to attend PRUP 2000 meetings to participate in preparations for this event or simply to bring to the table prison issues they wish to be addressed at the demonstration. The meetings will all be held at the;

Olympia Timberland Library
1:00P.M. - 4:00P.M.
July 2, and July 8, 2000

Persons who attend the meetings are requested to bring documentation of any concerns they have about the prison system and a positive attitude. PRUP is determined that the demonstration on July 15 will be a peaceful but clear (and well-documented) voice of those on the outside speaking on behalf of those on the inside, whose voice cannot be heard.

This is your chance to come forward to be a voice for the incarcerated, with whatever issues you would like addressed. We need your input. We are all leaders in our own way. With many voices, we will have a better chance of being heard. We are a voice for the incarcerated in the 13 prisons in the state of Washington. We will have a peaceful demonstration. We do not want violence at the demonstration or in the prisons by the inmates. NONE. The inmates will support us by being peaceful within the walls. We need their support in that way, too. We will not waste our chance of being heard in a good way. Let's make this a successful demonstration. Thank you for all your support by having peace within, wherever you are at. We appreciate all the help we get. WE are all in this "Together As One" , in a good way.

We especially, want to invite all concerned citizens and family members. We need your support as well as your voice on this important day. We ask that you bring your petitions, letters of support, information, banners, signs, organizations, churches and most important of all, your presence.

TOGETHER AS ONE - IN VOICE.

We ask that for those who cannot be there, tie BLACK AND WHITE RIBBONS to your car antennas and any other location to make a statement that you are for prison reform. We ask for whatever support you can give. We WELCOME and INVITE each and everyone of you to come forward to be heard. EVERYONE COUNTS.

The DEMONSTRATION IS WELL PLANNED WITH EXPERT SPEAKERS WHO WILL BE ADDRESSING TOPICS ON; ECONOMIC$, PAROLE BOARD, MENTAL HEALTH, MEDICAL HEALTH, ABUSE OF PRISONERS, LEGISLATION AND FAMILY ISSUES.

We are asking that prisoners take no actions to participate and ask them or their families and friends contact me at:

Marlene Davis
7547 Henderson Blvd, Suite 66, Olympia, WA 98501.
Voice Message 360-455-9065 (Does Not Accept Collect Calls)
Email Address: Timberline2@email.msn.com

The Future of Capital Clubhouse

by Prophet Atlantis

A bunch of people with disabilities such as schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder and adha so on have been attending a place called Capital Clubhouse.

Capital Clubhouse is fully funded by the Thurston and Mason Counties Regional Support Network and pre-paid health plan. Capital Clubhouse provides pre-vocational training and psycho-social rehabilitation for adults with mental illness and, usually, receiving Medicaid/SSI. Almost all the clients are poor.

Capital Clubhouse is a membership corporation, or at least that is what it says in the Articles or Incorporation and Bylaws. Unfortunately, the Board of Directors over the past year removed all the bylaws about Member Rights. The final blow came last year and especially in March of 2000, which was one month before the Annual Membership Meeting. The Board removed the right of members to vote directly or even indirectly for Board Members. State Law for Non-profit Corporations RCW 24.03.065 Members, says in a Membership Corporation the Members Rights will be listed in the Articles or Incoporation or Bylaws. Client members were outraged by the Board's heavy handedness and outright breaking of State law. But no one seemed to care that the clubhouse was doing this.

Also, the Former Director and other client-members demanded, as is their right as members under RCW 24.03.135 Records to see minutes of many "secret or private" board and committee meetings. Also, to keep these records on the clubhouse site for review and inspection. The Board members refused.

As a result of a total neglect and concern for client-member rights the clients used one bylaw left at their disposal to change the picture.

Clients invoked the "Members may do as they deem necessary at the Annual Membership Meeting."

Clients removed the old board and installed a new board. Yet within a few weeks Members of the old board, (one is an administrative judge for the state (I think DNR or similar), filled a lawsuit and an injunction and restraining order and so on against six client members of the new board and the Director.

The Director was trying to protect the vulnerable medicaid clients rights and was removed by the police. We, the clients being sued contacted everyone to help us get legal assistance and support. NO ONE WOULD HELP US! We were taken to Thurston County Superior Court and lost the case because we could not get an attorney to speak for us. This was a civil matter but it violated confidentiality and other laws because a bunch of us filed grievances concerning the board before the annual meeting and before the legal suit was filed. This was supposedly illegal to sue clients for filling grievances. But nobody at the County or State cares.

In the meantime I and others proved very easily that the Capital Clubhouse removed and did not have Member Rights in the Bylaws or Articles of Incorporation AND that the Clubhouse Board has to let members see Clubhouse minutes and other records and keep them at the clubhouse site. BUT NOBODY CARES!

Now, the former director, who is and always has been a person on SSI and medicaid with a mental illness AND others are being threatened AGAIN with a lawsuit if we interfere or try to cut the funding to the clubhouse.

IS THERE AN ATTORNEY OUT THERE WHO CAN HELP US?

Washington Protection and Advocacy or WPAS of Seattle refused to help us. The free legal aid places refused to help us. We called many, many attorneys in the phone book and they tell us, at least half, that even though we have proof of wrongdoing by the clubhouse mentally ill clients cannot win in court against the clubhouse corporation or Thurston County.

So more letters will be given to me and other clients telling us not to "tell on the clubhouse" or we will get sued.

What is going on. I am actually frightened about giving you guys this letter because I am fully disabled with schizophrenia with bi-polar disorder now called schizo-affective disorder. I am a disable veteran and am native american of Cherokee 1/4 quantum blood. I have been dragged to the Hospital before for speaking out at a Committee Meeting during the legislature a couple of years ago. I committed no illegal act but ended up about three hours from having ECT done on me without legal process. I have been threatened before for speaking out on behalf of client and the rights of those with mental disabilities.

There are others involved with this and they are very frightened that if the clubhouse finds out that they are speaking they will be severely punished and sued, even though all they have is disability income

Please Help? Prophet Atlantis P.O. Box 444 Olympia, WA 98507-0444 360-455-9386 prophetskyeatlantis@yahho.com On May 6, 2000 Saturday Olympian Section C first page bottom right corner was an article about some of this letter.

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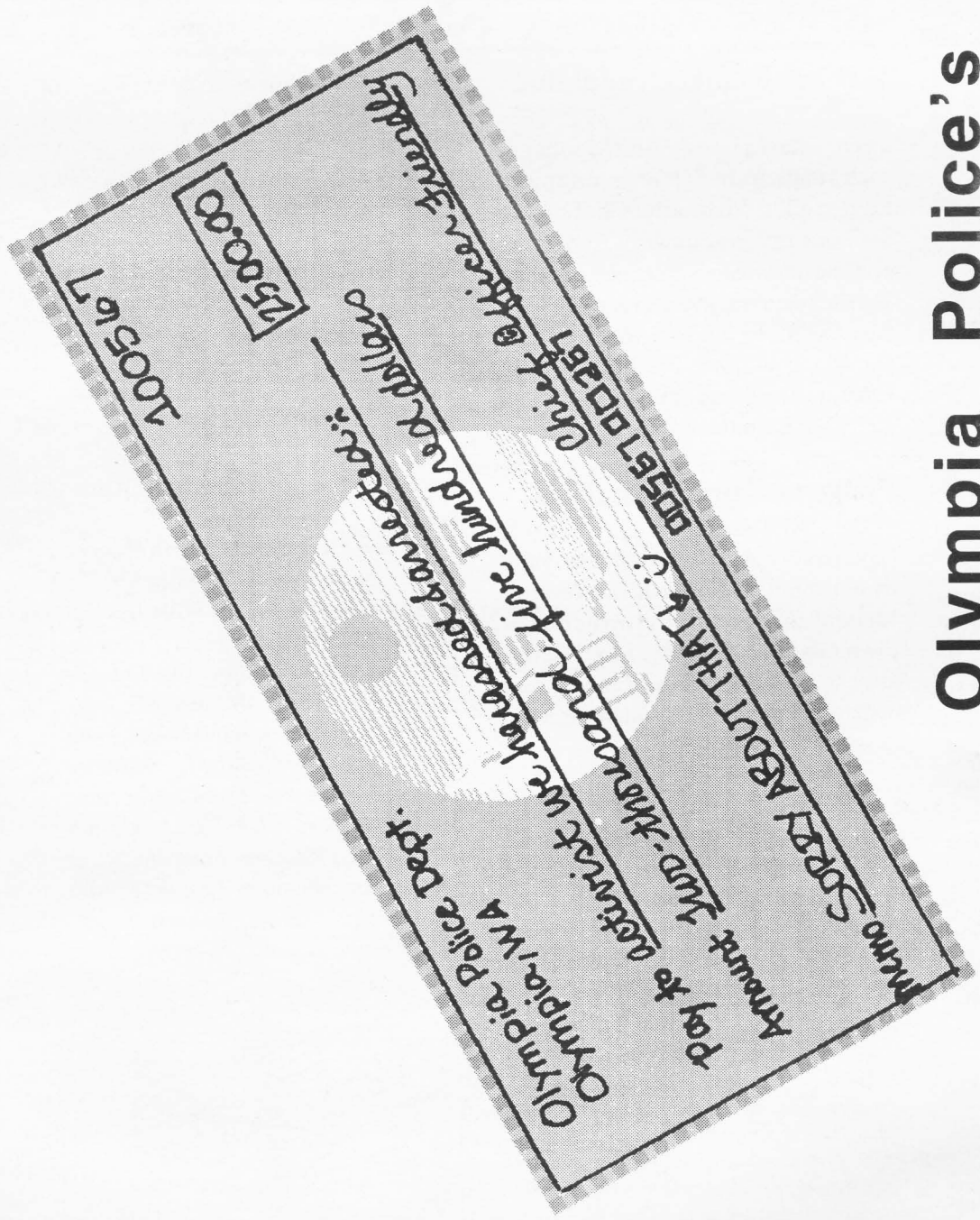

Olympia Police's Wrongful Arrest Suit Settled Out of Court

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Lawsuit Against Olympia Police Settled
+
Food Not Bombs

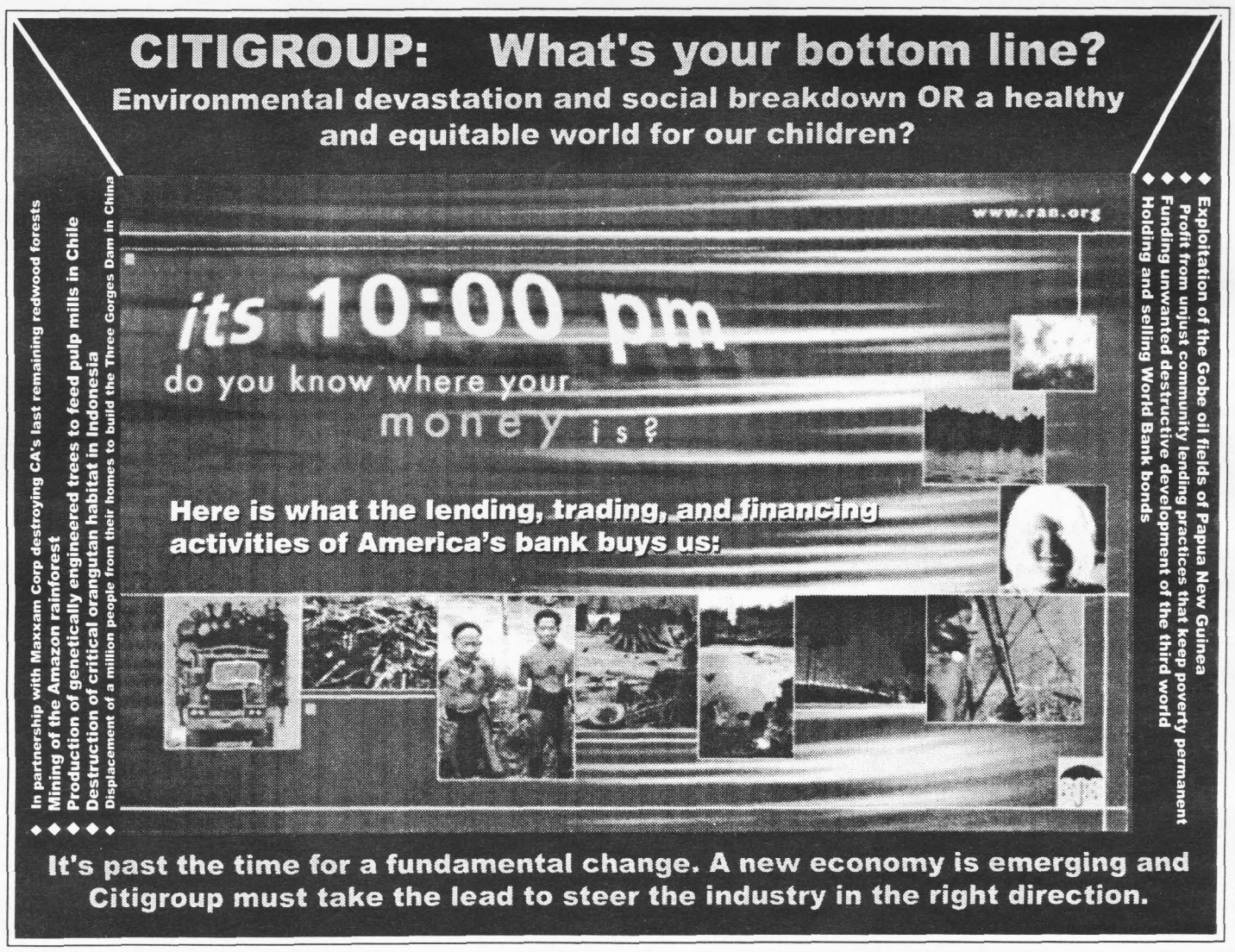
4
Crossing The Line
Balance of Passions: Steve Langer

5
Up Front
Father's Day

6
The New Slave Ships

7
Land of the Free, Home of the Slave

10
Criminalization of Mentally Ill Continues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Exploitation of the Gobe oil fields of Papua New Guinea
Profit from unjust community lending practices that keep poverty permanent
Funding unwanted destructive development of the third world
Holding and selling World Bank bonds
It's past the time for a fundamental change. A new economy is emerging and Citigroup must take the lead to steer the industry in the right direction.

Works In Progress
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